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Contact: Darren Rogers  
Senior Director, Communications & Media Services  
Churchill Downs Racetrack  
(502) 636-4461 (office)  
(502) 345-1030 (mobile)  
[Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com](mailto:Darren.Rogers@KyDerby.com)

## ENGAGINGLEE SPRINGS LOCUST GROVE SURPRISE

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016)** – Paul Lichtefeld and Jack Stewart’s **Enganglee** collected her first stakes victory with a determined head victory over **Miss Pink Diva** in Saturday’s 33<sup>rd</sup> running of the \$100,000 Locust Grove Presented by TwinSpires.com (Grade III) for fillies and mares at Churchill Downs.

Trained by **Dale Romans** and ridden by **Luis Saez**, Enganglee covered the 1 1/16 miles on a muddy main track in 1:46.24. Odds-on 3-5 favorite **Ahh Chocolate** struggled over the surface and finished last.

**Innovative Idea** led the field of six distaffers through fractions of :24.93, :49.32 and 1:13.75 with Enganglee racing comfortably in last during the early stages of the two-turn race. On the far turn, Enganglee began to pass rivals from the outside and drew even with Miss Pink Diva, who poked her head in front at the top of the stretch. Enganglee kicked on well and was fully extended to narrowly prevail.

“It was a great trip,” Saez said. “She was coming from behind. She broke well and we saved ground and when I asked her she responded very well. I had a little more left, she was hanging a little bit but she battled back and fought very well.”

The victory was worth \$61,380 to Enganglee and increased her earnings to \$313,620 with a record of 23-4-6-4. It was the first graded stakes victory for the 5-year-old Kentucky-bred daughter of 2000 Kentucky Derby winner Fusaichi Pegasus out of the Fit to Fight mare Lee Gage.

Enganglee returned \$17.60, \$6.20 and \$4.80 as the 7-1 fourth-betting choice. Miss Pink Diva, ridden by **Shaun Bridgmohan** at odds of 22-1, returned \$14.20 and \$6.80 with Innovative Idea finishing three lengths back in third under **Corey Lanerie** and paying \$4 to show.

**Sweetgrass** finished another 1 ¼ lengths back in fourth and was followed in order by **Romantic Vision** and Ahh Chocolate.

“Our filly just didn’t show up today is the best way to put it,” said Ahh Chocolate’s rider Brian Hernandez Jr. “It’s a part of the game.”

The Locust Grove is named after the 1790 Georgian mansion in Louisville that played home to ancestors of Churchill Downs founder Col. M. Lewis Clark.

## LOCUST GROVE QUOTES

**DALE ROMANS, trainer of ENGANGLEE (winner):** “She was coming into the race in real good shape. I thought that she was on the verge of a break through race. She deserved to be a graded stakes winner and now she got it. I have no explanation for the performance at Ellis (Park) but it’s good to make her a graded stakes winner now. She and I have one thing in common and that’s that we both love Churchill Downs.”

**LUIS SAEZ, jockey of ENGANGLEE (winner):** “It was a great trip. She was coming from behind. She broke well and we saved ground and when I asked her she responded very well. I had a little more left, she was hanging a little bit but she battled back and fought very well.”

**SHAUN BRIDGMOHAN, jockey of MISS PINK DIVA (runner-up):** “She tried hard. She gave me a good gallant effort and I am very proud of her. She tried the whole way.”

**BRIAN HERNANDEZ, JR., jockey of AHH CHOCOLATE (sixth as the 3-5 favorite):** “Our filly just didn’t show up today is the best way to put it. It’s a part of the game.”

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